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Case: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
Lawyer: Kyle Dumler
Investigator: Bill McBean
Subject: Alan Salazar

Bill: My name is Bill McBean; I'm the investigator for the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission. It's March 25, 2014. I'm in the executive office of the state capital with Alan Salazar. Alan, do you understand that this interview would be recorded?

Alan: Yes.

Bill: Is that okay with you?

Alan: Sure.

Bill: I'm also here with the governor's lawyer David Spector. David, is it okay that this interview is going to be recorded?

David: Yes.

Bill: Do you understand that this is going to be recorded?

David: Yes.

Bill: Okay, very good. We'll start with the general and get down to the specific if that's okay with you. Unbelievably my charts from the ethics commission was this, "Find out what happened up there." What happened up there Alan?

Alan: Up there meaning Aspen?

Bill: Yes.

Alan: The DGA had a policy conference. The governor had some other things on his schedule that he took care off. The Aspen Institute have a forum for governors that was separate from the DGA. There were a variety of receptions, meetings. We had a town meeting in

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Grand Junction. Governor had a policy meeting of his own with some telecommunications people. That's kind of what I remember of that weekend.

Bill: I kind of understand that no one was invited to this policy conference unless they were donors.

Alan: I don't know the answer to that. The reason I don't know the answer is I don't work for the DGA, so I don't know how they structured who was invited. I find that a little hard to believe and the reason...

Bill: You mean from the private sector?

Alan: I find it little hard to believe because we've had ... I've been to DGA events before. There was a key note speaker or I think that DGA conference the year before. It might have been the year before that is T. Boone Pickens. T. Boone Pickens, I think is a republican. I'm sure he'd never contributed to the DGA. I think that's probably something you have to take up with the DGA, but I find it hard to believe.

Bill: What did he do interesting, he's a draw?

Alan: Yeah, he is a draw.

Bill: He'd be drawing in places. They have [Inaudible 00:02:53].

Alan: Lem Smith, republican staff for republican member of congress now in Spring [Cana 00:03:00]. I think Lem was invited to speak one time. I don't know that Lem is in the same league as T. Boone Pickens, but I enjoy them both. I honestly don't [convenience 00:03:12] your question.

Bill: The other matters that the governor had to take care in Aspen were fund raisers?

Alan: In Aspen, he had his own fund raiser I believe or it was the democratic fund raiser. I can't remember. He had his own fund raiser in Grand Junction on the Friday before, but it was not DGA related.

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Bill: I understand that. What I'm trying to get at is; was the reason that he had campaign people going up there whether because he had fund raisers in Aspen and Grand Junction?

Alan: I'm not a campaign person. I work for him on the official side, so I don't know how to answer your question there. There were certainly people; we have a campaign person named Laura Warren who was there to staff him.

Bill: I understand right now.

Alan: I'm not sure.

Bill: I refuse to think that you don't know anything about campaigns.

Alan: No, I know a lot about campaigns.

Bill: How do campaigns run and what's going on [Inaudible 00:04:20] campaigns.

Alan: Twenty-nine years of doing campaign works, so I know it pretty well.

Bill: I thought so, that's why I thought you might know something about this.

Alan: I think I've answered your question. I don't know what this something is you're talking about.

Bill: In Aspen, was it a democratic fund raiser, was that what it was?

Alan: Can you just make sure you're a little bit more specific, I'm not sure I understand what you're asking about.

Bill: During the time, when DGA is having a meeting in Aspen, did the governor go to a separate fund raiser that didn't have anything to do with the DGA in Aspen?

Alan: Not in Aspen, in Grand Junction he had his own fund raiser on Friday night. I'd have to look at the schedule. Historically the state democratic party has done fund raisers in Aspen. I don't remember if they had one that Saturday or not. They generally do, I just don't honestly remember if they had one on this Saturday, the Saturday of this DGA weekend.

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The other one is the events were DGA events receptions. One of the person's home.

There was the opening reception that kind of thing. I don't think they are fund raisers.

Because their receptions were the people who were attending the event go to. It's not like there's a table setup where people write checks. That didn't happen. I never saw that happen in DGA.

Bill: The governor said in his disclosures that he was up there being a fund raiser for DGA.

Alan: Yeah, I don't know what the governor meant by that.

David: Actually, you can check it out; it's not exactly with the interrogatory.

Bill: Where do you say exactly?

David: The [interrogatory says exactly. Quote, "I also help the DGA raise funds that it uses to put on these types of policy conferences which provide a forum for governors and private citizens to engage in robust dialog on governance and core policy issues." It never said that it happened up in Aspen. You asked the same question with Roxane, she had the same answer to Alan.

Alan: When you say fund raiser, I think of what we did on Friday night in Grand Junction. People are invited, they're invited for the purpose of writing a check to Governor Hickenlooper campaign, the governor speaks, there's a table setup, there is the BRE, the envelopes. That's what I think as a fund raiser. I did not see fund raising take place when I was there in DGA.

Bill: What is that interrogatory answer would be? That he raises funds for them at other times?

David: You should ask the governor about what an interrogatory answer means. You've got a meeting with him tomorrow.

Bill: You guys are slippery a lot; I'll tell you it's tough.

Alan: What does that comment supposed to mean?

Bill: That means that I can't get a straight answer.

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Alan: I've given you a straight answer, it may not be the answer you want, but I totally object to your description of that. If that is your attitude with this interview, I want it noted.

Bill: It's all on the tape.

Alan: What is the right answer? You just [crosstalk 00:07:50] of being slippery. I want to know what the right answer is.

Bill: I was referring to Mr. Spector's root comment that I'd have to ask the governor what he meant by, "It wasn't a fund raiser." I'm not talking to you.

Alan: You are a slippery lot, is what you said. That you're supposed to be an independent investigator for the Ethics Commission. I want it noted that your comment is offensive to me, and I also want it noted that it's not an act or a description of how I answer the questions. You either apologize or we're stopping the interview. I'm not going to just take that I'm a part of the slippery lot. Sorry.

David: Just so we're clear the governor swore under oath on his interrogatories and I'm not trying to evade the question. I'm not the person, you conduct to the person directly tomorrow and ask him what he meant by his sworn statement that the governor provided.

Alan: I just find it offensive, I've been accused of being a slippery lot and I'm answering your question accurately. Is that what you meant?

Bill: I did not mean that you were a slippery lot and if you took it that way I'm sorry. If I cast too wide here, I'm sorry.

Alan: Taken; apology accepted.

Bill: I apologize.

Alan: Apology accepted.

David: Maybe if we can refocus this back to what Alan knows personally about what happened at DGA.

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Bill: Okay.

David: Great.

Bill: Did you attend the Saturday night banquet?

Alan: Yes, I think I did.

Bill: Did you sit with the governor?

Alan: No.

Bill: Did you see who the governor sat with?

Alan: No, I went to the reception. I'm not sure I actually was at the dinner. Because there was a banquet there was a pre-banquet reception. Then there was the democratic governor's banquet. I did not attend the banquet; because I didn't eat. I did go to the reception.

Bill: [Crosstalk 00:09:46].

Alan: Yeah, I don't remember the time, so I can just tell you I remember the reception. I don't remember a sit down dinner.

David: If I may have a clarification, there was the reception from six to eight and from eight to ten there was the dinner at the Little [Inaudible 00:09:58].

Bill: Okay.

David: What I'm saying is...

Alan: I didn't do the dinner.

Bill: He didn't do the dinner. Okay. I gather then from what I've been able to ask. Was it just you and Roxane that were staffing the governor at as Aspen, is that correct?

Alan: Laura Warren was on the [Inaudible 00:10:20]. She would have staffed him as well.

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Bill: I'll talk to Laura about that. Neither you nor Roxane went to the dinner?

Alan: I don't know about Roxane. [Crosstalk 00:10:33].

Bill: [Inaudible 00:10:34].

Alan: Yeah, that's right.

David: We'll correct that in our disclosure. Because I think the disclosure said, "The governor was staffed in every event at DGA." Like the [Inaudible 00:10:43] piece as this information comes out we'll just correct that.

Bill: I gather then that Governor Hickenlooper never have mentioned to you how much he manage to raise for the DGA?

Alan: No.

Bill: Did Governor Hickenlooper say anything to you about campaign donations coming from any of the individual participants from the private sector?

Alan: No.

Bill: Do you think that the DGA is going to contribute to the fall campaign?

Alan: Do I think they will?

Bill: Yes.

Alan: It depends on whether or not this is a close selection or easy one. I'm doing my best to make it an easy one. Because we don't control that.

Bill: And?

Alan: I don't think they can contribute to the governor's campaign. Illegally, they can't do that. I don't think they can contribute to the governor's campaign.

Bill: There is this disclosure where they contributed at other campaign's ethics.

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Alan: I think at Colorado Law.

David: DGA is a fund.

Bill: I mean at the stakes.

Alan: For the stakes.

David: Just so you know, to help your investigation for it to be smoother because I know your report is due on Monday. DGA doesn't have a type of entity which is like a 501 C4 that can actually make or an LLC that can contribute directly to campaigns in Colorado.

Alan: The way that I think the DGA would support the governor's campaign would be if they did advertising on the governor's half, but we would have no control of it. Then the way Colorado Law, Campaign Law works.

Bill: Did DGA pay your hotel and conference fee?

Alan: They paid the hotel. I don't know about the conference fee. That would be news to me, maybe they did. I didn't know there were conference fees. That would be a new piece of information.

Bill: They paid the governor's conference fee as a matter of policy that they sent, right David?

David: In my understanding and I'll have to look back to see what the answer would be, but my understanding is that as a matter of policy DGA does not charge governors a conference fee.

Bill: Correct, yeah. My question is did they charge staff?

David: Yeah, I don't know if they charged a conference fee for [Crosstalk 00:13:49] for you or Rox. We can find out.

Bill: For both Rox and Mr. Salazar and of course hotel as well. He said he fixed [Inaudible 00:14:04].

Alan: The hotel was ... I didn't book the hotel.

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Bill: Somebody told me that each of the governors there was considered your co-host. Is that your understanding?

Alan: I don't know if that's the way they're characterizing it. It wouldn't surprise me that they characterize that way. They were usually host stage, so there would be DGA events in Aspen. There might be a DGA event in Montana, wherever, so there's a host governor, but I don't know how they characterize the governors who participate. Honestly, that wouldn't surprise me.

Bill: I thought that [Shannon 00:14:59] was the co-host.

Alan: He would have been and as the chair of the DGA, so I think as a matter of course the chair and vice chair always characterize that way at any DGA event. The DGA would be able to answer that question for you.

Bill: We've got some questions sent to DGA on this one. I just want to know what you're understanding of this. Do you think that the DGA event in Aspen was more a fund raising instead of policy affair?

Alan: In my perspective it was a policy affair. Because that's the bulk of the time.

Bill: We've already gone over at the question about ... one of the things that he invited who wasn't a contributor. We won't ask that one again. Do you think it violates public policy for the governor's office of police should be working on behalf of a partisan affair like this?

Alan: On behalf of the affair?

Bill: The governor's office has said that this is a partisan affair, the DGA.

Alan: The DGA, the conference?

David: We've admitted just to get a background that DGA has got the world democratic partisan and [Inaudible 00:16:30] that also runs policy events. A part of their mission, their core mission is policy and politics. [Inaudible 00:16:36].

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- Alan: No one in my staff contributed to or participated in supporting the DGA. Our role is to support the governor. What that means from the policy office perspective is that we will do briefings wherever and whenever he is traveling around the state or the country where he's expected to speak on what would be policy matters or partisan matters. My staff prepares to those briefings. That's what we did; we support the governor not the DGA.
- Bill: That's why this wasn't a violation of the Colorado handbook which says that government police will not be involved in political affairs during government time.
- Alan: When there is a partisan affair it's on non-work time, non-official time towards like my attendance of the governor's fund raiser on Friday night my time.
- Bill: That's understood. Did Governor Hickenlooper request that the conference be in Aspen?
- Alan: It's traditionally been in Aspen, he never made that request that I'm aware of and it would have been a strange request because they have generally held them in Aspen for over many years.
- Bill: That's it. Thank you very much sir.

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